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Sustainable development: follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Awsan **Al-Aud** (Yemen)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 49 (see A/63/414, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 24th and 30th meetings, on 4 and 26 November 2008. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/63/SR.24 and 30).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/63/L.12 and A/C.2/63/L.44

2. At the 24th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/63/L.12), which read:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Reaffirming* the Declaration of Barbados and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ('Barbados Programme of Action'), adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable

* The report of the Committee on this item is being issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/63/414 and Add.1-7.

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Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

"*Reaffirming also* the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ('Mauritius Strategy for Implementation'), adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on 14 January 2005,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 59/311 of 14 July 2005, 60/194 of 22 December 2005, 61/196 of 20 December 2006 and 62/191 of 19 December 2007,

"*Recalling also* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Reaffirming* that the Commission on Sustainable Development is the primary intergovernmental forum for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

"*Recalling* the decision taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixteenth session that one day be devoted exclusively to the review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

"*Recalling also* that one half-day of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/196, was devoted to a discussion of policy options for addressing the barriers and constraints facing small island developing States in the four thematic areas of the session, taking into account the review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation conducted during the fourteenth session of the Commission,

"*Reaffirming* that the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of small island developing States, that the effects of climate change may threaten the very existence of some of them and that adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change and sea-level rise therefore remains a major priority for small island developing States,

"*Recognizing* the urgent need to increase the level of resources provided to small island developing States for the effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

"*Underscoring* the importance of developing and strengthening national sustainable development strategies in small island developing States,

"*Recalling* its request that the Secretary-General submit a report on actions taken to strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat,

"*Recalling also* the decision to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

"2. *Also takes note* of the actions taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit;

"3. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment of the international community to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"4. *Urges* Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, United Nations funds, programmes, specialized agencies and regional commissions, international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely action for the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, including the further development and operationalization of concrete projects and programmes;

"5. *Calls for* the full and effective implementation of the commitments, programmes and targets adopted at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and, to this end, for the fulfilment of the provisions for the means of implementation, as contained in the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and encourages small island developing States and their development partners to continue to consult widely in order to develop further concrete projects and programmes for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

"6. *Reaffirms* the decision taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixteenth session that one day during its review sessions be devoted exclusively to the review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

"7. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development to devote one half-day of its Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting to a discussion of policy options for addressing the barriers and constraints facing small island developing States identified during the thematic cluster of each cycle of the session;

"8. *Encourages* better and early consultation with small island developing States in the planning and coordination, as appropriate, of the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development devoted to the review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and emphasizes the importance of enhanced interaction among small island developing States and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system addressing issues concerning small island developing States;

"9. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance support for the efforts of small island developing States to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through the provision of dedicated sources of financing, capacity-building and the transfer of appropriate technologies to address climate change;

"10. *Requests* the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to intensify efforts aimed at mainstreaming the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation in their work programmes and to establish a focal point for matters related to small island developing States within their respective secretariats to support coordinated implementation of the programme of action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

"11. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance its support for the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity as a set of actions to address characteristics and problems that are specific to islands, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eighth meeting, in 2006;

"12. *Calls for* continued support for the design and implementation of national sustainable development strategies in all small island developing States;

"13. *Encourages* the implementation of partnership initiatives, within the framework of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States;

"14. *Underlines* the importance of providing the Small Island Developing States Unit with sufficient, stable and predictable funding to facilitate the full and effective implementation of its mandates in accordance with the high priority accorded to the Unit and in view of the increasing demand for its service, in particular with respect to the provision of assistance and support to small island developing States;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit, as called for in its resolutions 57/262 of 20 December 2002, 58/213 A of 23 December 2003, 59/229 of 22 December 2004, 59/311, 60/194, 61/196 and 62/191, to ensure that the Unit is sufficiently and sustainably staffed without delay so that it may undertake its broad range of mandated functions, with a view to facilitating the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

"16. *Calls for* the provision of new, predictable resources as well as increased voluntary resources for the revitalization of the Small Island Developing States Information Network;

"17. *Reaffirms* its decision to review the progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation at its sixty-fifth session, and decides to convene a two-day high-level review meeting in September 2010;

"18. *Requests* the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, to organize, facilitate or support efforts at the national, regional and international levels to review the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and to assess progress made towards addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States;

"19. *Invites* the small island developing States to consider at their relevant intergovernmental meetings assessments and relevant contributions to the review process;

"20. *Requests* the international community to support the efforts to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy of Implementation, including, inter alia, by facilitating the participation of small island developing States in review activities;

"21. *Also requests* that a decision be taken on the modalities for the review;

"22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

"23. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development', the sub-item entitled 'Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States'."

3. At its 30th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" (A/C.2/63/L.44), submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Andrei Metelitsa (Belarus), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.12.

4. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chairman (Belarus) orally revised the draft resolution by adding the words "as a part of the session of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on possible arrangements for the review" at the end of operative paragraph 17.

5. Also at the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

6. Also at its 30th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.44, as orally revised (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

7. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (see A/C.2/63/SR.30).

8. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.44, draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.12 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/63/L.13 and A/C.2/63/L.52

9. At the 24th meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/C.2/63/L.13), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados, the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

"*Recalling* the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,

"*Taking into account* all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002, 59/230 of 22 December 2004 and 61/197 of 20 December 2006,

"*Taking into account also* the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and in particular paragraph 21,

"*Recalling* the 2005 World Summit Outcome,

"*Recalling also* the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983, and its protocols, which contain the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

"*Reaffirming* the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and other relevant instruments,

"*Emphasizing* the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,

"*Recalling* the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

"*Considering* that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile, structurally weak and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

"*Recognizing* that the Caribbean Sea has a unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystem,

"*Recognizing also* that the Caribbean is special because it is the most tourist dependent region in the world relative to its size,

"*Noting* that the Caribbean Sea is also special when compared to all other large marine ecosystems in that it has the largest number of countries surrounding it in the world,

"*Emphasizing* that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

"*Bearing in mind* the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

"*Acknowledging* that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

"*Noting* the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

"*Taking note* of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

"*Mindful* of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

"*Mindful also* of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the Caribbean Sea area and, in so doing, to promote an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

"*Welcoming* the continued efforts of the States members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, and noting in this regard the commitment by Heads of State and Government of the Association of Caribbean States to further develop their concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development,

"*Welcoming also*, in that regard, the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Commission on the Caribbean Sea,

"*Cognizant* of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

"1. *Decides* to recognize the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development;

"2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the Commission on the Caribbean Sea of the Association of Caribbean States, and invites the international community to recognize such efforts;

"3. *Welcomes also* the Plan of Action adopted by the Commission on the Caribbean Sea, including its scientific and technical components, and governance and outreach components, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to fully support the implementation of the Plan of Action through the provision of financial and technical resources and capacity-building;

"4. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

"5. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

"6. *Invites* the Association to submit a report on its progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the Secretary-General for consideration during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

"7. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

"8. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes;

"9. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity, to develop national, regional and international programmes to halt the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves;

"10. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols concerning the management, protection and sustainable utilization of Caribbean Sea resources and in implementing them effectively;

"11. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively the national and regional activities of the Caribbean States towards the promotion of the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;

"12. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, based on their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

"13. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of the Association of Caribbean States in regional dialogue and in the consolidation of a wider Caribbean cooperation zone in the field of disaster risk reduction, as well as the importance of the international community in deepening existing cooperation and consolidating new initiatives with that regional mechanism within the context of the outcomes of the Association of Caribbean States High-level Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Saint-Marc, Haiti, in November 2007, and the Plan of Action approved by the Ministerial Council of the Association upon the recommendation of the Conference;

"14. *Calls upon* Member States to elaborate training programmes for the development of a human resources capacity at different levels and to develop research aimed at enhancing the food security of Caribbean countries, as well as the sustainable management of renewable marine and coastal resources;

"15. *Calls upon* Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

"16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-fifth session, under the sub-item entitled 'Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States' of the item entitled 'Sustainable development', on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the views expressed by relevant regional organizations."

10. At its 30th meeting, on 26 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations" (A/C.2/63/L.52), submitted by the Vice-Chairman, Andrei Metelitsa (Belarus), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.13.

11. At the same meeting, the Committee was informed that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

12. Also at the same meeting, the representative of Guatemala orally corrected the draft resolution (see A/C.2/63/SR.30).

13. Also at its 30th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.52, as orally corrected (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

14. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Turkey, the United States of America, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Barbados (see A/C.2/63/SR.30).

15. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.52, draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.13 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Follow-up to and Implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Barbados[1] and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[2] adopted by the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, and recalling its resolution 49/122 of 19 December 1994 on the Global Conference,

Reaffirming also the Mauritius Declaration[3] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States ("Mauritius Strategy for Implementation"),[4] adopted by the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States on 14 January 2005,

Recalling its resolutions 59/311 of 14 July 2005, 60/194 of 22 December 2005, 61/196 of 20 December 2006 and 62/191 of 19 December 2007,

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5]

Reaffirming that the Commission on Sustainable Development is the primary intergovernmental forum for monitoring the implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

Recalling the convening of one half-day meeting of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the fifteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, as called for by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/196, to discuss policy options for addressing the barriers and constraints facing small island developing States in the four thematic areas of the session, taking into account the review of the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation conducted during the fourteenth session of the Commission,

Reaffirming that the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of small island developing

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[1] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[2] Ibid., annex II.

[3] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[4] Ibid., annex II.

[5] See resolution 60/1.

States, that the effects of climate change may threaten the very existence of some of them and that adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise therefore remains a major priority for small island developing States,

Recognizing the urgent need to increase the level of resources provided to small island developing States for the effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,

Underlining the importance of developing and strengthening national sustainable development strategies in small island developing States,

Recalling its request to the Secretary-General to submit a report on actions taken to strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit,

Recalling also the decision to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation at the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General[6] on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on actions taken to strengthen the Small Island Developing States Unit;[7]

3. *Welcomes* the renewed commitment of the international community to the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;[2]

4. *Urges* Governments and all relevant international and regional organizations, United Nations funds and programmes, the specialized agencies and regional commissions, international financial institutions and the Global Environment Facility, as well as other intergovernmental organizations and major groups, to take timely action for the effective implementation of and follow-up to the Mauritius Declaration[3] and the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation,[4] including the further development and operationalization of concrete projects and programmes;

5. *Calls for* the full and effective implementation of the commitments, programmes and targets adopted at the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States and, to this end, for the fulfilment of the provisions for the means of implementation, as contained in the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and encourages small island developing States and their development partners to continue to consult widely in order to develop further concrete projects and programmes for the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

6. *Reaffirms* the decision taken by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixteenth session that one day of its review sessions should be devoted exclusively to the review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, focusing on that year's thematic cluster, as well as on any new developments in the

[6] A/63/296.
[7] A/62/945.

sustainable development efforts of small island developing States using existing modalities;

7. *Invites* the Commission on Sustainable Development to devote one half-day of its Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting to discussing policy options for addressing the barriers and constraints facing small island developing States identified in the thematic cluster of each implementation cycle, taking into account the review conducted during the respective review session;

8. *Encourages* enhanced, closer and early consultation with small island developing States in the planning and coordination, as appropriate, of the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development devoted to the review of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, and emphasizes the importance of enhanced interaction between small island developing States and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system addressing issues concerning small island developing States;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance support for the efforts of small island developing States to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, including through the provision of dedicated sources of financing, capacity-building and the transfer of appropriate technologies to address climate change;

10. *Requests* the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to intensify efforts aimed at mainstreaming the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation in their work programmes and to establish a focal point for matters related to small island developing States within their respective secretariats to support coordinated implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

11. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance its support for the implementation of the programme of work on island biodiversity[8] as a set of actions to address characteristics and problems that are specific to islands, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its eighth meeting, in 2006;

12. *Calls for* continued support for the design and implementation of national sustainable development strategies in all small island developing States;

13. *Encourages* the implementation of partnership initiatives, within the framework of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation, in support of the sustainable development of small island developing States;

14. *Underlines* the importance of providing the Small Island Developing States Unit with adequate, stable and predictable funding to facilitate the full and effective implementation of its mandates in accordance with the priority accorded to the Unit and in view of the demand for its services, in particular with respect to the provision of assistance and support to small island developing States;

15. *Reiterates* the importance of ensuring sufficient and sustainable staffing of the Small Island Developing States Unit so that it may undertake its broad range of mandated functions with a view to facilitating the full and effective implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to take the necessary actions;

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[8] UNEP/CBD/COP/8/31, annex I, decision VIII/1, annex.

16. *Calls for* the provision of new and additional voluntary resources to ensure the revitalization and sustainability of the Small Island Developing States Information Network;

17. *Reaffirms* its decision to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through implementation of the Mauritius Strategy during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly, decides to convene a two-day high-level review in September 2010 as a part of the session of the General Assembly, and requests the Secretary-General to report to the Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on possible arrangements for the review;

18. *Decides* that the two-day high-level review should be preceded, where necessary, by national, subregional, regional and substantive preparations in a most effective, well-structured and broad participatory manner and that, for this purpose, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, through its Small Island Developing States Unit, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States and the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, including regional commissions, within their respective mandates and existing resources, should organize, facilitate and provide necessary support to the review process at the national, regional and international levels; and stresses that the review should provide the international community with an opportunity to conduct an assessment of the progress made, lessons learned and constraints encountered in the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy and agree on what needs to be done to further address the vulnerabilities of small island developing States;

19. *Invites* the small island developing States to consider at their respective, relevant intergovernmental meetings of small island developing States assessments and relevant contributions to the review process;

20. *Calls upon* the international community to support the efforts to review progress made in addressing the vulnerabilities of small island developing States through the implementation of the Mauritius Strategy including, inter alia, through facilitating the participation of small island developing States in review activities;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session on the follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Implementation;

22. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States".

Draft resolution II
Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the principles and commitments enshrined in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development,[1] the principles embodied in the Declaration of Barbados,[2] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[3] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[4] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[5] as well as other relevant declarations and international instruments,

Recalling the Declaration and review document adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-second special session,[6]

Taking into account all other relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolutions 54/225 of 22 December 1999, 55/203 of 20 December 2000, 57/261 of 20 December 2002, 59/230 of 22 December 2004 and 61/197 of 20 December 2006,

Taking into account also the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[7]

Recalling the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[8]

Recalling also the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, signed at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on 24 March 1983,[9] and the protocols thereto, which contain the definition of the wider Caribbean region of which the Caribbean Sea is part,

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

[2] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April-6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[5] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[6] See resolution S-22/2, annex.

[7] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] See resolution 60/1.

[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1506, No. 25974.

Reaffirming the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,[10] which provides the overall legal framework for ocean activities, and emphasizing its fundamental character, conscious that the problems of ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole through an integrated, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach,

Emphasizing the importance of national, regional and global action and cooperation in the marine sector as recognized by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in chapter 17 of Agenda 21,[11]

Recalling the relevant work done by the International Maritime Organization,

Considering that the Caribbean Sea area includes a large number of States, countries and territories, most of which are developing countries and small island developing States that are ecologically fragile and socially and economically vulnerable and are also affected, inter alia, by their limited capacity, narrow resource base, need for financial resources, high levels of poverty and the resulting social problems and the challenges and opportunities of globalization and trade liberalization,

Recognizing that the Caribbean Sea has unique biodiversity and highly fragile ecosystems,

Recognizing also that the Caribbean has been shown to be the most tourism-dependent region in the world relative to its size,

Noting that the Caribbean Sea, when compared to all other large marine ecosystems, is surrounded by the largest number of countries in the world,

Emphasizing that the Caribbean countries have a high degree of vulnerability occasioned by climate change, climate variability and associated phenomena, such as the rise in sea level, the El Niño phenomenon and the increase in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters caused by hurricanes, floods and droughts, and that they are also subject to natural disasters, such as those caused by volcanoes, tsunamis and earthquakes,

Bearing in mind the heavy reliance of most of the Caribbean economies on their coastal areas, as well as on the marine environment in general, to achieve their sustainable development needs and goals,

Acknowledging that the intensive use of the Caribbean Sea for maritime transport, as well as the considerable number and interlocking character of the maritime areas under national jurisdiction where Caribbean countries exercise their rights and duties under international law, present a challenge for the effective management of the resources,

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[10] See *The Law of the Sea: Official Texts of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 with Index and Excerpts from the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.V.10).

[11] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992*, vol. I, *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

Noting the problem of marine pollution caused, inter alia, by land-based sources and the continuing threat of pollution from ship-generated waste and sewage, as well as from the accidental release of hazardous and noxious substances in the Caribbean Sea area,

Taking note of the relevant resolutions of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency on safety of transport of radioactive materials,

Mindful of the diversity and dynamic interaction and competition among socio-economic activities for the use of the coastal areas and the marine environment and their resources,

Mindful also of the efforts of the Caribbean countries to address in a more holistic manner the sectoral issues relating to the management of the wider Caribbean Sea region and, in so doing, to promote integrated management of the wider Caribbean Sea region in the context of sustainable development, through a regional cooperative effort among Caribbean countries,

Welcoming the continued efforts of the States members of the Association of Caribbean States to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, and recognizing in this regard the firm commitment by Heads of State and Government of the Association of Caribbean States to take the steps necessary to ensure the recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development, and without prejudice to relevant international law,

Taking note of the creation by the Association of Caribbean States of the Caribbean Sea Commission, and welcoming its ongoing work,

Cognizant of the importance of the Caribbean Sea to present and future generations and to the heritage and the continuing economic well-being and sustenance of people living in the area, and the urgent need for the countries of the region to take appropriate steps for its preservation and protection, with the support of the international community,

1. *Recognizes* that the Caribbean Sea is an area of unique biodiversity and a highly fragile ecosystem that requires relevant regional and international development partners to work together to develop and implement regional initiatives to promote the sustainable conservation and management of coastal and marine resources, including, inter alia, the consideration of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to relevant international law;

2. *Takes note* of the efforts of the Caribbean States and the work undertaken by the Caribbean Sea Commission of the Association of Caribbean States, including, inter alia, the development of their concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development, and invites the international community to support such efforts;

3. *Welcomes* the plan of action adopted by the Caribbean Sea Commission, including its scientific and technical components and governance and outreach components, and invites the international community and the United Nations system to support, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to implement the plan of action;

4. *Recognizes* the efforts of Caribbean countries to create conditions leading to sustainable development aimed at combating poverty and inequality, and in this regard notes with interest the initiatives of the Association of Caribbean States in the focal areas of sustainable tourism, trade, transport and natural disasters;

5. *Calls upon* the United Nations system and the international community to assist, as appropriate, Caribbean countries and their regional organizations in their efforts to ensure the protection of the Caribbean Sea from degradation as a result of pollution from ships, in particular through the illegal release of oil and other harmful substances, and from illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, including radioactive materials, nuclear waste and dangerous chemicals, in violation of relevant international rules and standards, as well as pollution from land-based activities;

6. *Invites* the Association to submit a report on its progress in the implementation of the present resolution to the Secretary-General for consideration during the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly;

7. *Calls upon* all States to become contracting parties to relevant international agreements to enhance maritime safety and promote the protection of the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, damage and degradation from ships and ship-generated waste;

8. *Supports* the efforts of Caribbean countries to implement sustainable fisheries management programmes and to meet the principles of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations;[12]

9. *Calls upon* States, taking into consideration the Convention on Biological Diversity,[13] to develop national, regional and international programmes to halt the loss of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean Sea, in particular fragile ecosystems such as coral reefs and mangroves;

10. *Invites* Member States and intergovernmental organizations within the United Nations system to continue their efforts to assist Caribbean countries in becoming parties to the relevant conventions and protocols concerning the management, protection and sustainable utilization of Caribbean Sea resources and in implementing them effectively;

11. *Calls upon* the international community, the United Nations system and the multilateral financial institutions, and invites the Global Environment Facility, within its mandate, to support actively the national and regional activities of the Caribbean States towards the promotion of the sustainable management of coastal and marine resources;

12. *Expresses deep concern* about the severe destruction and devastation caused to several countries by heightened hurricane activity in the wider Caribbean region in recent years;

13. *Urges* the United Nations system and the international community to continue to provide aid and assistance to the countries of the Caribbean region in the

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[12] *International Fisheries Instruments with Index* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.98.V.11), sect. III.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.

implementation of their long-term programmes of disaster prevention, preparedness, mitigation, management, relief and recovery, based on their development priorities, through the integration of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction into a comprehensive approach to sustainable development;

14. *Acknowledges* the pivotal role of the Association of Caribbean States in regional dialogue and in the consolidation of a wider Caribbean cooperation zone in the field of disaster risk reduction, as well as the importance of the international community in deepening existing cooperation and consolidating new initiatives with that regional mechanism within the context of the outcomes of the High-level Conference on Disaster Reduction of the Association of Caribbean States, held in Saint-Marc, Haiti, from 14 to 16 November 2007, and the plan of action approved by the Ministerial Council of the Association upon the recommendation of the Conference;

15. *Invites* Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders to consider training programmes for the development of a human resource capacity at different levels and to developing research aimed at enhancing the food security of Caribbean countries, as well as the sustainable management of renewable marine and coastal resources;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to improve as a matter of priority their emergency response capabilities and the containment of environmental damage, particularly in the Caribbean Sea, in the event of natural disasters or of an accident or incident relating to maritime navigation;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to it at its sixty-fifth session, under the sub-item entitled "Follow-up to and implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States" of the item entitled "Sustainable development", on the implementation of the present resolution, including a section on the possible legal and financial implications of the concept of the Caribbean Sea as a special area within the context of sustainable development, including its designation as such without prejudice to relevant international law, taking into account the views expressed by Member States and relevant regional organizations.